

## **Archive No. 08**

### **Di Otto (**

Di Otto was born and raised in Adelaide and was a student at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Adelaide, 1971 - 1973. She moved to Melbourne in 1974 and was the first paid worker at the Women's Liberation Halfway House as the Research Coordinator for the next two years. During that time Di worked on editing the Herstory of the Halfway House 1974 - '76 which was published by the WLHWH Collective, Melbourne, 1978, and printed by Sybylla Press. She was member of many feminist activist groups, including the Melbourne editorial group that published Scarlet Woman, and attended many conferences, demos and meetings,

Di went on to work as an Outreach Youth Worker first at the St Kilda Community Group (1976 - 1980) and then at the YMCA (1980 - 1984). She was instrumental in setting up What Are Ya? a youth support group for young women.

For five years Di worked as the State-wide Coordinator of the Youth Accommodation Coalition of Victoria (1984 - 1989). She enrolled in the Faculty of Law, at the University of Melbourne as a law student and research assistant, 1990 - 1992; was the Regional coordinator for Amnesty International for a year (1993); and from 1994 to the present she has been employed at the Faculty of Law (Uni of Melbourne) as a Lecturer (1994 - '97) Senior lecturer (1998 - 2001) and Associate Professor (2002 - present).

Di says of the writing she has been doing over these past three decades: 'My work has developed in three main areas: human rights law, public international law and, in the Australian domestic context, criminal law, economic, social and cultural rights, and feminist legal theory.'